

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☒

Property Name: Powell Duplex Inventory Number: BA-2935

Address: 15600 Ensor Mill road City: Sparks Zip Code: 21152-9105

County: Baltimore USGS Topographic Map: Hereford

Owner: Jonathon Dean Barney

Tax Parcel Number: 234 Tax Map Number: 28 Tax Account ID Number: 0816060350

Project: _____ Agency: _____

Site visit by MHT Staff: ☐ no ☐ yes Name: _____ Date: _____

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Is the property located within a historic district? ☒ no ☐ yes Name of district: _____

Is district listed? ☐ no ☐ yes Determined eligible? ☐ no ☐ yes District Inventory Number: _____

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Powell Duplex is a framed two-story duplex that probably served as a tenantry, housing local farm laborers or employees of the nearby Ensor Saw Mill. It may have been originally built for the Powell family, housing one household, before remodeling as a duplex. Interior demolition and lack of access precluded a more definitive assessment. Ownership remained in the Powell family from their purchase of the property, a part of Merryman's Farms, in June 1909 until the sale to J. D. Barney in September 2000. Despite asbestos siding and enclosure of the rear porch, and the addition of a two-story rear ell, this early 20th century vernacular dwelling retains much of the simple character of a rural tenancy, even if modified to that purpose sometime in the first half of the 20th century. Recent installation of a well and possibly a septic field has marred the surface, but the unadorned, functional landscape of the site represents that of a typical rural tenancy or small family owned farm (26 acres) in the uplands of northern Baltimore County. The building's exterior is restorable, but most—if not all—of the interior fabric is lost. At least one outbuilding has been demolished, while two concrete block outbuildings and a cistern/well survive.

No historically significant events or persons (Criteria A and B) appear to have been directly associated with the buildings and parcel. The dwelling represents a typical expression of vernacular rural architecture to house owner and/or tenant households, and the setting—although cleared of the kinds of debris often associated with such sites—represents the functional landscapes of rural tenancies (Criterion C); however, asbestos siding detracts from the overall appearance of the principal building and the rear ell probably marks a shift in the use of the structure from two households to one. The rear of the principal building and the yards overlook Interstate 83. Interior gutting and ongoing renovation greatly diminish the potential of the Powell Duplex and associated outbuildings and yardscape to inform on the agricultural economy of the second half of the Industrial and Urban Dominance Period (1870–1930); hence the property does not meet Criterion D or any of the other three criteria for inclusion into the National Register of Historic Places.

Prepared by: James G. Gibb

Date Prepared: 06 December 2000

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None
Comments: _____

James G. Gibb
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services
James G. Gibb
Reviewer, NR program

3/20/2001
Date
6/21/01
Date

✓

Capsule Summary

Property Name: Powell Duplex
MIHP: BA-2935
Location: 15600 Ensor Mill Road
Town: Sparks, MD
Date of Construction: ca. 1907
Access: Private
Prepared by: James G. Gibb

The Powell Duplex is a framed two-story duplex that probably served as a tenantry, housing local farm laborers or employees of the nearby Ensor Saw Mill. It may have been originally built for the Powell family, housing one household, before remodeling as a duplex. Interior demolition and lack of access precluded a more definitive assessment. Ownership remained in the Powell family from their purchase of the property, a part of Merryman's Farms, in June 1909 until the sale to J. D. Barney in September 2000. Despite asbestos siding and enclosure of the rear porch, and the addition of a two-story rear ell, this early 20th century vernacular dwelling retains much of the simple character of a rural tenancy, even if modified to that purpose sometime in the first half of the 20th century. Recent installation of a well and possibly a septic field has marred the surface, but the unadorned, functional landscape of the site represents that of a typical rural tenancy or small family owned farm (26 acres) in the uplands of northern Baltimore County. The building's exterior is restorable, but most—if not all—of the interior fabric is lost. At least one outbuilding has been demolished, while two concrete block outbuildings and a cistern/well survive.

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Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2935

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Powell Duplex (preferred)

other Barney House

2. Location

street and number 15600 Ensor Mill Road not for publication

city, town Sparks ☒ vicinity

county Baltimore

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Jonathon Dean Barney

street and number 15600 Ensor Mill Road

telephone unknown

city, town Sparks

state MD

zip code 21152-9105

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dept of Assessments and Taxation liber 14723 folio 482

city, town Sparks tax map 28 tax parcel 234 tax ID number 0816060350

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	0
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	3
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	0
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	5
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	0
			Total
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2935

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Powell Duplex is a framed two-story duplex that probably served as a tenantry, housing local farm laborers or employees of the nearby Ensor Saw Mill. It may have been originally built for the Powell family, housing one household, before remodeling as a duplex. Interior demolition and lack of access precluded a more definitive assessment. Ownership remained in the Powell family from their purchase of the property, a part of Merryman's Farms, in June 1909 until the sale to J. D. Barney in September 2000. Despite asbestos siding and enclosure of the rear porch, and the addition of a two-story rear ell, this early 20th century vernacular dwelling retains much of the simple character of a rural tenancy, even if modified to that purpose sometime in the first half of the 20th century. Recent installation of a septic field has marred the surface, but the unadorned, functional landscape of the site represents that of a typical rural tenancy or small family owned farm (26 acres) in the uplands of northern Baltimore County. The building's exterior is restorable, but most—if not all—of the interior fabric is lost. At least one outbuilding has been demolished, while two others and a cistern/well survive.

The mirror symmetry and simple double-bay, one room deep plan with second story rests upon a mortared fieldstone foundation. Poured concrete piers support the front porch and blocks partially infill between the four piers. Poured concrete foundations support the rear ell and enclosed porch. Asbestos shingles clad the entire building. Beaded board covers the porch soffit. The owner has gutted the interior preparatory to rehabilitation. The chimney is uncapped and parged. The rear porch of the main building's north façade is enclosed and, like the rest of the building, sided in asbestos shingles, with the exception of an interior portion where the original German siding is exposed.

The first floor windows are 2/2 lights; those on the second are 1/1 with working shutters. The pintles and other associated shutter hardware survive around the first floor windows, although the fate of the shutters remains undetermined. The north wall is blank. There is a bulkhead entranceway and an abandoned above ground oil tank on the south façade. There is a capped cistern or well off the northwest corner of the ell.

A debris filled depression 50 ft from the northwest corner of the ell marks the location of a demolished outbuilding. The specifics of its construction, materials, function, and dates of construction and demolition are undetermined. The two surviving outbuildings are unadorned concrete block structures: a small garage with a frame gable roof, exposed rafter ends, and side door, and a utility building of uncertain function with a frame shed roof and two doors framing a central window. Both appear, on the basis of materials, to have been constructed at the same time. Limited access precludes a more detailed description.

The parcel is open with few trees and backs onto I-83.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2935

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates Early 20th century **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates ca. 1905–1907

Evaluation for:

☒ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Powell Duplex is an early 20th-century vernacular frame rural dwelling that accommodated a farm family of limited means who may have found work at the nearby Ensor Mill in the predominantly agricultural economy of the Hereford area. The unadorned dwelling and associated outbuildings, the cistern, the demolished outbuilding, and the generally open, featureless yards reflect a very functional domestic setting in which few substantial improvements were made. Application of asbestos siding on the original German siding served maintenance needs but represents little investment in this building. The principal building may have been remodeled as a duplex, accommodating local farm laborers or mill workers as tenants of the Powell family. Asbestos siding, interior demolition, and lack of access precluded a determination of whether the principal building was constructed as a duplex or modified. The current owner is remodeling the building for single household occupation. The ell accommodated larger households and may mark a transition to a single household residence and the general decline of tenanted hired farm laborers and closure of the mill. Access to the interior was not possible, so the relationship of the ell to the once divided first and second floor rooms could not be determined, and the interior has been gutted. Enclosure of the rear porch is the only improvement that appears to reflect convenience rather than an overwhelming need or change in type of occupancy.

No historically significant events or persons (Criteria A and B) appear to have been directly associated with the buildings and parcel. The dwelling represents a typical expression of vernacular rural architecture to house owner and/or tenant households, and the setting—although cleared of the kinds of debris often associated with such sites—represents the functional landscapes of rural tenancies (Criterion C); however, asbestos siding detracts from the overall appearance of the principal building and the rear ell probably marks a shift in the use of the structure from two households to one. The rear of the principal building and the yards overlook Interstate 83. Interior gutting and ongoing renovation greatly diminish the potential of the Powell Duplex and associated outbuildings and yardscape to inform on the agricultural economy of the second half of the Industrial and Urban Dominance Period (1870–1930); hence the property does not meet Criterion D or any of the other three criteria for inclusion into the National Register of Historic Places.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2935

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Table. Chain of title, Powell Duplex.

Grantor	Grantee	Acres	Date	Instrument
Eliz. Hall, Phillip Powell	Jonathon D. Barney	3.64	26 Sept 2000	Deed 14723/482
Esther Powell, Pers. Rep, estate of Rich. A. Powell	Esther Powell & Rich Powell	3.64	01 Mar 1999	Deed 13856/263
Annie Marie Powell	E. Hall, Rich. Powell, et al.	3.64	22 Oct 1981	Deed 6339/383
Robert Powell	Chas. G. & Annie M. Powell	3.64	27 June 1928	Deed 660/30
Julia Merryman	Robert Powell	3.64	14 June 1909	Deed 346/481
John S. Ensor & Sam. W. Herman, trustees for Julia Merryman	Julia Merryman	3.64, part of larger conveyance	27 Dec 1907	Deed 324/54
Sarah B. Merryman	Geo. K. Ensor	26	07 Jan 1870	EHA 74/111
Sarah Ensor	Sarah B. Merryman	26	04 May 1854	HMF 8/230

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2935

Land Records of Baltimore County, Baltimore County courthouse, Towson, Maryland.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 3.64
Acreage of historical setting 3.64
Quadrangle name Hereford, MD

Quadrangle scale: 1:2400

Verbal boundary description and justification

The 3.64 residential lot has retained its size and configuration since December 1907 when it appears to have been subdivided from—or associated with—a small farm, conveyed at 26 acres at least as early as 1854 and at least as late as 1907. See attached tax map detail.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	James G. Gibb		
organization	Andrew Garte & Associates	date	06 December 2000
street & number	6285 Shady Side Road	telephone	410.867.4600
city or town	Shady Side	state	MD 20764

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Figure 1. East (principal) façade of the duplex. Note concrete piers and partial block infill beneath the porch, the second floor shutters and the duplex plan.

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Name
Continuation Sheet

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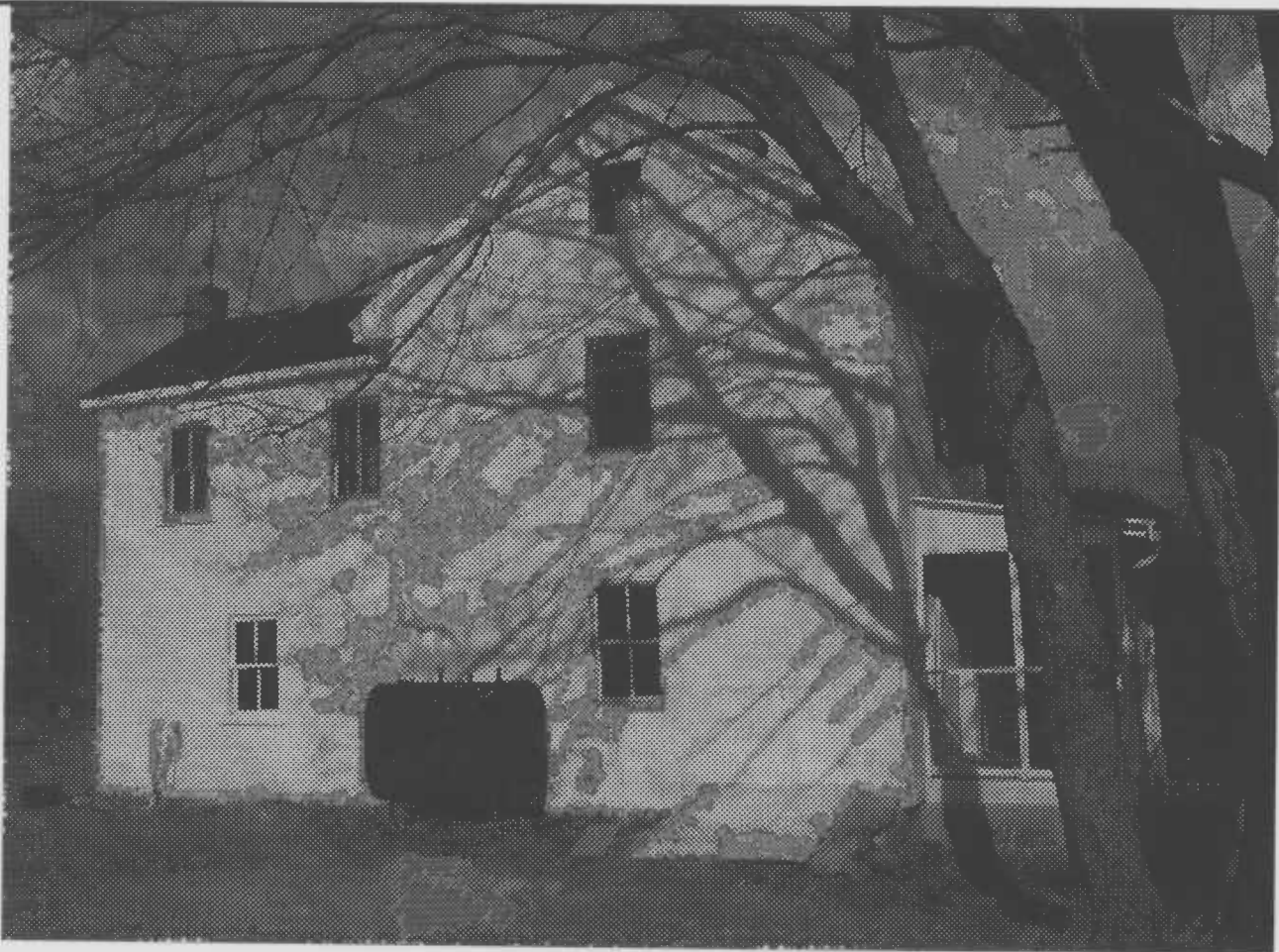


Figure 2. South façade of the duplex. Note rear ell and fenestration.

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Figure 3. Concrete block outbuildings including a garage in the foreground.

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Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

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Name
Continuation Sheet

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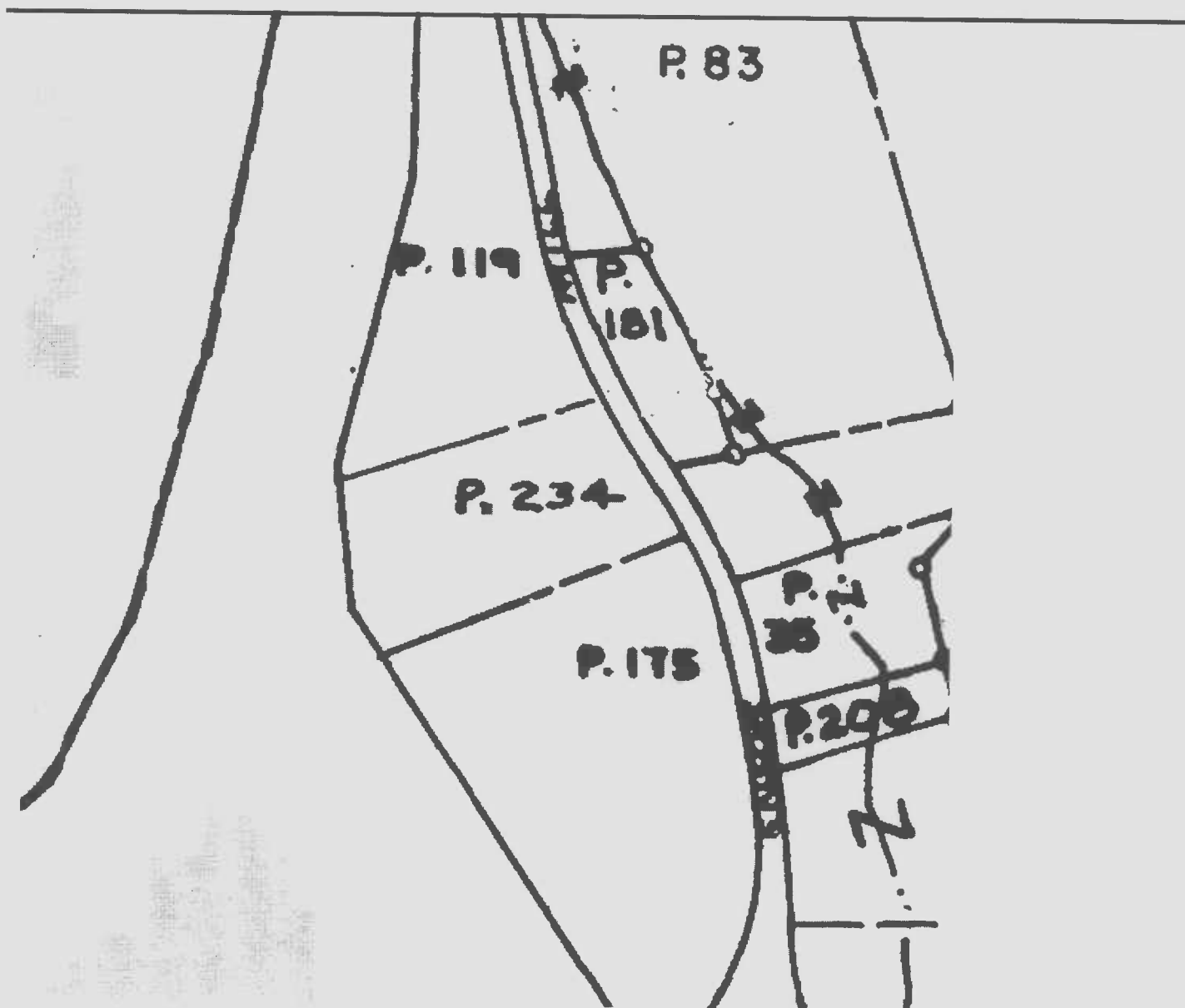
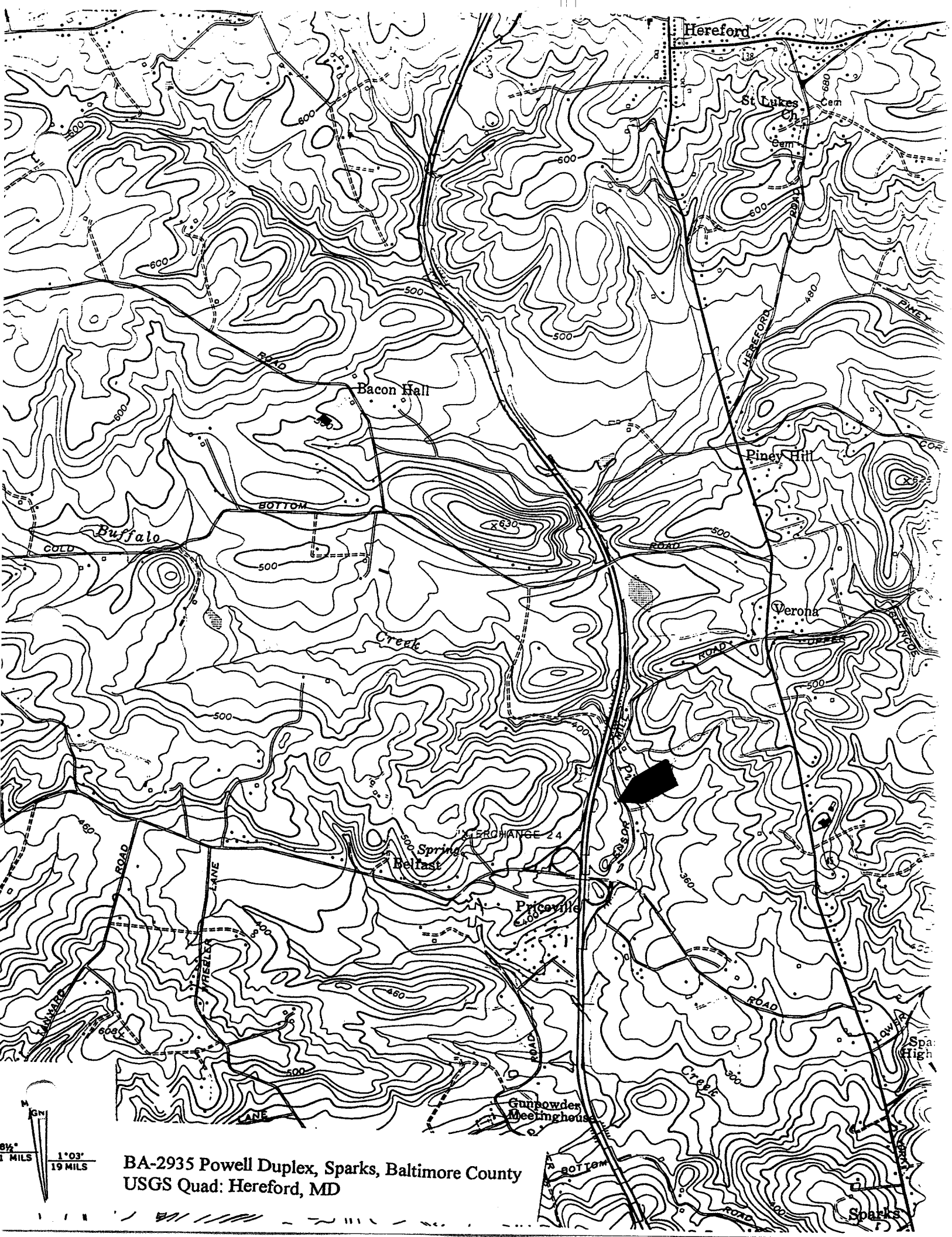


Figure 4. Tax map.



BA-2935 Powell Duplex, Sparks, Baltimore County
USGS Quad: Hereford, MD



BA-2935

1/3

Powell Duplex

Baltimore County, MD

E G Gibb

MD SHPO - Project 48

View of Powell Duplex and outbuilding from Enser
Mill Rd.

December 28, 2000



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213

Powell Duplex

Baltimore County, MD

T. G. Gibb

MD SHPO - Negative

View of Powell Duplex facing Encor Mill Road (East).

December 22, 2000



BA-2935

3/3

Powell Duplex

Baltimore County, MD

J.G. Gibb

MD SHPO - Negative

View of Powell Duplex from driveway, facing southwest.

December 28, 2000